

TOP SECRET

25X1

[Redacted]
10 March 1966
Copy 3

25X1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Reconnaissance, CIA

SUBJECT: Proposed NRO Staff Functions

1. By way of a general observation regarding the proposed NRO Staff functions, I am again compelled to comment that in my opinion if these functions are carried to fruition, this staff will primarily function as a "buffer zone" between the Program Directors and DNRO/DDNRO. We have all seen this happen in various areas already and if this process continues, it most certainly will slow to a crawl the daily operations of the NRO. While I recognize that an NRO Staff is needed, to interject it between the Program Directors and the DNRO/DDNRO is most undesirable.

2. My specific comments on the NRO Staff functions are as follows:

a. Director, NRO Staff - I see no need for, nor am I in agreement with, the permissible delegation of authority of the DNRO/DDNRO to the D/NRO Staff.

b. Assistant for Security - Change paragraph to read as follows: * Functioning in an advisory and Liaison capacity, he is the principle NRO Staff member on all matters involving the investigation and security facilities of the DOD, Military Departments, CIA and NRO Program Directors as required. He provides secretariat services for the non-Agency contingency planning community and serves as the NRO * Staff member of the ICPC working group." (Obviously, CIA should continue to be represented.)

c. Assistant for Communications - Change paragraph to read as follows: * Assists CIA, upon request, in the coordination with DOD and other Government agencies regarding the installation

25X1

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

TOP SECRET

NRO review(s) completed

~~TOP SECRET~~

25X1

25X1

[Redacted] Page 2

and utilization of CIA communications services and facilities which are employed solely and primarily for NRP matters". We would strongly recommend that a CIA communications officer be assigned to the office of Assistant for Communications to ensure smooth coordination between CIA and other Government agencies as they affect the NRO communications system.

d. Deputy for Operations - The implication in the last paragraph is that the functions of the Deputy for Operations will include those now being carried out by AFRDR (General Geary). While we are not against change and are certainly not saying that it would not work under the proposed set up, the least that can be said for it is that in the past it has been a very smooth running operation and that the responsiveness of AFRDR has always been exceptionally timely and of a most cooperative and constructive manner. The other implication in the description of these functions is that it would place the NRO Staff in the position of passing judgment on what our (DOD) requirements are in support of the NRO.

e. Deputy for R&D - In my judgment, the Deputy for R&D should not be responsible for reviewing all R&D programs proposed by the various Program Directors who have technically competent staffs for just this purpose. To permit detailed review of each proposed program from a technical viewpoint, as a matter of charter, allows too much authority within a staff function and would certainly impede timely reaction to requirements. Briefly, I would view the function as one of coordination to avoid duplication and technical review only as requested by the DNRO/DDNRO.

f. Deputy for Plans, Policy, and Resources - Although it may be implicit in the second paragraph of this functions statement, I recommend the following change to make it more

25X1
[Redacted]~~TOP SECRET~~

TOP SECRET

25X1

25X1

[Redacted] Page 3 [Redacted]

explicit: "This staff handles public information matters of concern to the D/NRO * (in coordination with the DCI and consistent with security policy established by the DCI.)"

25X1

JACK C. LEDFORD
Brigadier General, USAF
Director of Special Activities

*Changes made

25X1

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

25X1



25X1

Page 4

Distribution:

- 1 - D/R/CIA
- 2 - DD/S&T
- 3 - D/SA
- 4 - PS/OSA
- 5 - D/Tech/OSA
- 6 - D/FA/OSA
- 7 - SS/OSA
- 8 - C&FE/OSA
- 9 - Chrono
- 10 - RB/OSA

25X1

PS/OSA [redacted] (10 Mar 66)

25X1



TOP SECRET